

Application No. 09/728,935

Response to January 14, 2004 Office action

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

Claims 1-41 were originally pending. Claims 1, 14-20, 22-24, 27-28, 30-36, 38-39, and 41 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 2-13, 25-26, 29, 37, and 40 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 2-13, 21, 25-26, 29, 37, and 40 remain pending.

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Canceled).

2. (Presently amended) A method as recited in claim ~~14~~ wherein the object is illustrated with respect to the first intersecting hierarchy as a three-dimensional structure.

3. (Presently amended) A method as recited in claim ~~14~~, wherein the first and second hierarchies are determined by an administrator.

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4. (Presently amended) A method ~~as recited in claim 1~~ comprising:  
specifying an object having first and second intersecting hierarchies, the  
first and second intersecting hierarchies comprise a plurality of additional objects;  
illustrating the object with respect to the first hierarchy; and  
presenting a second intersecting hierarchy selection option to illustrate the  
object with respect to the second intersecting hierarchy in response to user  
selection;

~~wherein the first and second intersecting hierarchies comprise a plurality of~~  
~~additional objects;~~

~~wherein the method further comprises:~~

presenting context sensitive information for the object and an additional  
object, the context sensitive information for the additional object comprising an  
indication of a third hierarchy; and

choosing responsive to selection of the indication corresponding to the third  
hierarchy; and

in response responsive to choosing:

(a) if the first hierarchy intersects the third hierarchy, illustrating  
both the object and the additional object with respect to the third hierarchy; and

(b) if the first hierarchy does not intersect the third hierarchy,  
illustrating only the additional object with respect to the third hierarchy.

4/  
5. (Presently amended) A method as recited in claim ~~14~~, further  
comprising:

in response to the responsive to specifying:

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(a) displaying additional objects that correspond to the object;

(b) exposing one or more attributes that correspond to the object;

choosing an attribute; and

~~in response to the choosing~~ responsive to selection, filtering the additional objects based on the chosen attribute.

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6. (Presently amended) A method as recited in claim 14, further comprising: responsive to selection of selecting the second intersecting hierarchy selection option; ~~and in response to the selecting~~, illustrating the object with respect to the second intersecting hierarchy.

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7. (Presently amended) A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the illustrating the object further comprises: visually morphing from the first intersecting hierarchy to the second intersecting hierarchy.

7  
8. (Presently amended) A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the illustrating the object further comprises:

visually morphing from the first intersecting hierarchy to the second intersecting hierarchy, one or more additional objects being illustrated with respect to the first intersecting hierarchy; and

~~the visually morphing comprising~~ wherein visually morphing comprises:

simultaneously illustrating at least a portion of both the first and second intersecting hierarchies and graphically pivoting about the object to temporarily show a relationship of the objects with respect to the first and second

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intersecting hierarchies,

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9. (Presently amended) A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the illustrating the object further comprises:

visually morphing from the first intersecting hierarchy to the second intersecting hierarchy, one or more additional objects being illustrated with respect to the first intersecting hierarchy; and

~~the visually morphing comprising wherein visually morphing comprises:~~

overlying at least a portion of both the first and second intersecting hierarchies simultaneously to temporarily illustrate a relationship of the objects with respect to the first and second intersecting hierarchies.

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10. (Presently amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the object is a first object, and wherein the method further comprises:

displaying a second object that corresponds to the specified first object; and

~~selecting the second object; and~~

~~in response to selecting responsive to selection of the second object,~~  
illustrating both the first and second objects with respect to the first intersecting hierarchy.

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11. (Presently amended) A method as recited in claim 10, and further comprising: responsive to selection of the selection of selecting the second intersecting hierarchy selection option; and in response to the selecting,

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illustrating the first and second objects with respect to the second intersecting hierarchy.

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12. (Presently amended) A method as recited in claim <sup>9</sup>10, and further comprising removing the first object such that only the second object is illustrated with respect to the first intersecting hierarchy.

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13. (Presently amended) A computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions that, when executed on a computer, performs the method of claim ~~1~~ 4.

14 - 20. (Canceled)

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21. (Previously presented) A method comprising:  
presenting an object with respect to a first hierarchy of information; and  
switching from the first hierarchy of information to a second hierarchy of information using a visual pivot technique in which the second hierarchy of information is visually pivoted about a pivot axis intersecting the object and the object is presented with respect to the second hierarchy of information; and  
wherein the first and second hierarchies intersect at the object, the first hierarchy associated a first data relationship of the object, the second hierarchy associated with a second data relationship of the object, the first data relationship being different than the second data relationship.

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22 - 24. (Canceled).

14 15  
25. (Presently amended) A graphical user interface as recited in claim 24  
29, wherein the graphical user interface changes the second area to illustrate the  
object with respect to the second intersecting hierarchy by visually morphing from  
the first hierarchy to the second hierarchy.

14 16  
26. (Presently amended) A graphical user interface as recited in claim 24  
29, wherein the graphical user interface changes the second area to illustrate the  
object with respect to the second intersecting hierarchy by:

(a) rotating the second hierarchy about a pivot axis onto the first hierarchy;

and

(b) fading out the first hierarchy to leave only the second hierarchy.

27 - 28. (Canceled)

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29. (Presently amended) A graphical user interface ~~as recited in claim 24~~  
wherein comprising:

a first area to facilitate user specification of an object that may be represented in first and second hierarchies;

a second area to illustrate the object with respect to the first hierarchy; and

a third area to facilitate user selection of the second hierarchy so that, upon selection of the second hierarchy, the second area is changed to illustrate the object with respect to the second hierarchy; the object is being displayed in the second area in context of a current hierarchy, the current hierarchy being selected from a group of hierarchies consisting of the first and second hierarchies;

the graphical user interface further comprises:

(a) a fourth area to display the specified object and additional objects that correspond to the specified object, the fourth area facilitating user selection of an additional object so that, upon selection of the additional object, the second area is changed to illustrate the object and the additional object within the current hierarchy; and

(b) a fifth area to display attributes of the specified object, the fourth area facilitating filtering of the additional objects displayed in the fourth area.

30 - 36. (Canceled)

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37. (Presently amended) A system as recited in claim ~~36~~ <sup>17</sup> ~~40~~, wherein the processor is further configured to execute computer program instructions for managing the object with respect to the first and second hierarchies.

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38 - 39. (Canceled).

40. (Presently amended) A system comprising:

a computer coupled to a data store comprising a plurality of databases, the computer comprising a processor coupled to a memory, the memory comprising computer-executable instructions for:

specifying an object from the data store;

in response to specifying, receiving data from the data store, the data comprising first and second hierarchies of information that correspond to the specified object, the first and second hierarchies of information intersecting at the object, the first hierarchy being associated a first data relationship of the object, the second hierarchy being associated with a second data relationship of the object, the first data relationship being different than the second data relationship;

visually morphing from the first intersecting hierarchy to the second intersecting hierarchy to illustrating illustrate the object and one or more additional objects within the first hierarchy, the visually morphing comprising:

(a) simultaneously illustrating at least a portion of both the first and second intersecting hierarchies; and

(b) graphically pivoting about the object to temporarily show a relationship of the objects with respect to the first and second intersecting hierarchies; and



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presenting an indication of the second hierarchy for user selection to illustrate the object with respect to the second hierarchy.

B' [ ~~the visually morphing comprising simultaneously illustrating at least a portion of both the first and second intersecting hierarchies and graphically pivoting about the object to temporarily show a relationship of the objects with respect to the first and second intersecting hierarchies.~~

[ 41. (Canceled).

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